Central funding for CHIS

1294. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central funding for implementation of 'Community Health Insurance Scheme' (CHIS) in Andhra Pradesh under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Programme during the last three years and till date, year-wise separately;

(b) the total number of people covered under CHIS in the State during this period; and

(c) the details of the benefits and facilities being provided under CHIS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no such scheme called "Community Health Insurance Scheme" [CHIS] running in Andhra Pradesh under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. However, an insurance scheme *viz.* "Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme" is run by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A token support of Rs.10 Crores each in 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been approved under NRHM for this Scheme, as an innovative measure, considering that NRHM is focused on Primary Health Care.

(b) Under the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme 204.13 lakh BPL Families are covered till date.

(c) Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme Provides financial protection to families living below poverty line up to Rs. 2 lakhs in a year for the treatment of serious ailments requiring hospitalization and surgery. 389 procedures are covered under the scheme.

Policy for biomedical waste management

1295. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is being proposed to formulate a policy for biomedical waste management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Government had formulated National Guidelines on Hospital Waste Management and circulated to States and Union Territories in March, 2002.

These guidelines have been prepared to enable hospitals to implement the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, notified under the Environment Protection Act 1986, by developing comprehensive plans for segregation, collection, storage, treatment, transportation and disposal of the hospital waste in terms of :

- Segregation, collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste.
- Handling and disposal of sharps, especially auto-disable (AD) syringes.
- Infection control and personal safety measures.
- Mercury waste disposal
- Monitoring, evaluation, awareness, behavioural change and training to improve skills in bio-medical waste management.

Vacant posts of doctors in rural Bihar

1296. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of doctors and medical staff in remote villages and inaccessible areas of Bihar; and

(b) whether it is being proposed to appoint doctors on contract basis or utilize unregistered doctors in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the Rural Health Statistics (RHS) Bulletin (March 2008), 513 positions of doctors. 176 positions of specialists, 237 positions of nurses, 548 positions of lab technicians and 550 positions of pharmacists are vacant in the State of Bihar. To compensate these gaps the state has undertaken contractual recruitment of health service providers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Introduction of pneumonia vaccine

1297. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child health bodies urged Government to include pneumonia vaccine in the routine immunization schedule since the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that one child died in India a minute due to pneumonia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the WHO Data published recently reveals that India leads the World with 27 per cent of the global pneumonia cases;

(d) whether Government introduced a pentavalent vaccine which includes Haemophilus influenza (Hib) one of the two bacteria causing pneumonia; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to include Pneumococcal Conjagate Vaccine (PCV) which immunize children against pneumonia?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The Indian Association of Pediatrics: Committee on Immunization (IAP COI) has recommended for inclusion of Pheumococcal vaccines in the routine immunization schedule, considering the high mortality caused by this disease in children in the country.